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March 18, 2004

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TO: Examiner Leonard S. Liang
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Group Art Unit 2853

FAX number: (703) 872-9306
Voice number:

FROM: Jack H. McKinney

RE: Serial No. 10/041,037

PAGES: Number of pages, including this cover sheet: 10

ADDITIONAL MESSAGE:

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE

Please find attached the following documents for filing:

1. Transmittal Letter For Response/Amendment (in duplicate); and
2. Response to the Office Action mailed January 6, 2004

HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY
Intellectual Property Administration
P. O. Box 272400
Fort Collins, Colorado 80527-2400

PATENT APPLICATION

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 10980546-2

IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s): Steve O. Rasmussen et al.

Confirmation No.: 3806

Application No.: 10/041,037

Examiner: Leonard S. Liang

Filing Date: Nov. 1, 2001

Group Art Unit: 2853

Title: Inkjet Printing Media Handling System With Advancing Guide Shim

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL LETTER FOR RESPONSE/AMENDMENT

Sir:

Transmitted herewith is/are the following in the above-identified application:

- (X) Response/Amendment () Petition to extend time to respond
(X) New fee as calculated below () Supplemental Declaration
() No additional fee (Address envelope to "Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment")
() Other: _____ (fee \$ _____)

CLAIMS AS AMENDED BY OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY						
(1) FOR	(2) CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT	(3) NUMBER EXTRA	(4) HIGHEST NUMBER PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR	(5) PRESENT EXTRA	(6) RATE	(7) ADDITIONAL FEES
TOTAL CLAIMS	18	MINUS	20	= 0	X \$18	\$ 0
INDEP. CLAIMS	4	MINUS	3	= 1	X \$86	\$ 86
[] FIRST PRESENTATION OF A MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM					+ \$290	\$ 0
EXTENSION FEE	1ST MONTH \$110.00	2ND MONTH \$420.00	3RD MONTH \$950.00	4TH MONTH \$1480.00		\$ 0
OTHER FEES						\$
TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE FOR THIS AMENDMENT						\$ 86

Charge \$ 86 to Deposit Account 08-2025. At any time during the pendency of this application, please charge any fees required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 08-2025 pursuant to 37 CFR 1.25. Additionally please charge any fees to Deposit Account 08-2025 under 37 CFR 1.16, 1.17, 1.19, 1.20 and 1.21. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

(X) I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted
to the Patent and Trademark Office facsimile
number (703) 872-9306 on Mar 19, 2004
Number of pages: 10

Typed Name: Tanya F. PaulinSignature: 

Steve O. Rasmussen et al.

By 

Jack H. McKinney

Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Date of Deposit: March 19 2004

Typed or printed name: Tia F. Paulia

Signature: _____

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**PATENT APPLICATION
DOCKET NO. 10980546-2**

OFFICIAL

**IN THE
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

INVENTOR(S): Steve O. Rasmussen, et. al

SERIAL NO.: 10/041,037

GROUP ART UNIT: 2853

FILED: November 1, 2001

EXAMINER: Liang, Leonard S

SUBJECT: INKJET PRINTING MEDIA HANDLING SYSTEM WITH ADVANCING
GUIDE SHIM

**THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231**

AMENDMENTS

The following listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) An inkjet printing apparatus which moves a media sheet along a media path and marks the media sheet with ink, comprising:

an inkjet printhead having a plurality of inkjet nozzles which eject ink onto a portion of the media sheet located within a print zone, the print zone located adjacent to the plurality of nozzles;

a support which supports the media sheet as the media sheet passes along the media path through the print zone;

a roller located upstream along the media path prior to the print zone, the roller stabilizing the media sheet relative to a first surface during printing onto at least a first portion of the media sheet;

a guide shim located along the media path, the guide shim having a guide surface extending at least from the roller, beyond the roller toward the print zone during printing, the guide shim acting upon a portion of the media sheet between the roller and the print zone to keep the media sheet out of contact with the printhead;

the guide shim capable of being advanced along the media path between a first position in which the guide shim is located upstream from the print zone along the media path and a second position in which at least a portion of the guide shim is located in the print zone; and

an advancing means operable to move the guide shim from the first position to the second position once the a trailing edge of the media sheet reaches a prescribed location along the media path, the guide shim being advanced with the media sheet.

2. (original) The apparatus of claim 1, in which the advancing means comprises means for advancing the guide shim into the print zone while a trailing edge of the media sheet moves into the print zone.

3. (original) The inkjet printing apparatus of claim 1, in which the roller is a first roller and further comprising a second roller located downstream along the media path after the print zone, the second roller stabilizing the media sheet relative to a second surface during printing onto at least a second portion of the media sheet.

4. (previously presented) The inkjet printing apparatus of claim 1, in which the support is an endless belt, and wherein the endless belt comprises an outer surface upon which the media sheet rests, the outer surface being said first surface.

5. (previously presented) The inkjet apparatus of claim 3, in which the support moves along a path between the first roller and second roller while supporting a trailing portion of the media sheet.

6. (previously presented) The inkjet apparatus of claim 1, wherein the advancing means includes:

a sensor which detects position of the media sheet and generates in response a sensor signal; and

an actuator, responsive to the sensor signal, and operable to move the guide shim along the media path between the first position and the second position.

7. (original) The inkjet apparatus of claim 1, in which the inkjet printhead is a pagewide array printhead.

8. (original) The inkjet apparatus of claim 1, in which the inkjet printhead is a scanning type printhead which scans across the media sheet in a direction orthogonal to the direction of media sheet movement along the media path.

9. (original) The inkjet apparatus of claim 1, in which the plurality of inkjet nozzles are organized into a plurality of rows, each row extending in a direction orthogonal to the direction of media sheet movement along the media path.

10. (original) A method for advancing a media sheet along a media path through a print zone of an inkjet printing apparatus, the apparatus including an inkjet printhead having a plurality of inkjet nozzles which eject ink, the print zone located adjacent to the plurality of nozzles, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving the media sheet at a roller which stabilizes the media sheet along the media path relative to a first surface, the roller located upstream along the media path prior to the print zone;

moving the media sheet under a guide shim toward the print zone, the guide shim acting upon a portion of the media sheet to maintain flatness and advance

accuracy of the media sheet as a trailing edge of the media sheet travels beyond the roller toward the print zone;

ejecting ink onto a portion of the media sheet located within the print zone;
and

advancing the guide shim along the media path into the print zone while a trailing portion of the media sheet moves into the print zone.

11. (original) The method of claim 10, in which the roller is a first roller and further comprising the step of receiving the media sheet at a second roller which stabilizes the media sheet along the media path relative to a second surface, the second roller located downstream along the media path after the print zone.

12. (original) The method of claim 11, in which the inkjet printing apparatus includes an endless belt which supports the media sheet as the media sheet passes along the media path through the print zone, wherein the step of receiving the media sheet at the first roller comprises pressing the media sheet to the endless belt, wherein the step of receiving the media sheet at the second roller comprises pressing the media sheet to the endless belt, the endless belt comprising the first surface and the second surface.

13. (original) The method of claim 11, in which the inkjet printing apparatus includes an endless belt which supports the media sheet as the media sheet passes along the media path through the print zone, and wherein the step of moving the media sheet under a guide shim toward the print zone comprises the step of driving the endless belt to carry the media sheet under the guide shim toward the print zone.

14. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of detecting a trailing edge of the media sheet, and in which the step of advancing comprises advancing the guide shim along the media path in response to the detection of the trailing edge.

15. (original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
moving the media sheet onto a support; and
moving the support along a path away from the roller while supporting a trailing portion of the media sheet during printing to at least a portion of the media sheet.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, in which the roller is a first roller and in which the step of moving the support comprises moving the support along a path between the first roller and a second roller while supporting a trailing portion of the media sheet during printing to at least a portion of the media sheet, the second roller located downstream along the media path after the print zone.

17. (new) A printing apparatus, comprising:
a means for moving a media sheet along a media path, the media path including a print zone;
a printing means operable to print on a portion of the media sheet located within the print zone;
a guide shim movable between a first position in which the guide shim is located upstream from the print zone along the media path and a second position in which at least a portion of the guide shim is located in the print zone; and
an advancing means operable to advance the guide shim from the first position to the second position once a trailing edge of the media sheet reaches a prescribed location along the media path in order to keep the media sheet out of contact with the printhead.

18. (new) A method for advancing a media sheet a printing apparatus, comprising:
transporting a media sheet along a media path, the media path including a print zone;
moving the media sheet under a guide shim toward the print zone, the guide shim acting upon a trailing edge of the media sheet as the training edge travels toward the print zone;
printing on a portion of the media sheet located within the print zone; and

advancing the guide shim along the media path into the print zone while a trailing portion of the media sheet moves into the print zone.